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DE RUEHLO #1302 1301417  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 091417Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8541  
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0327  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0518  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0818  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 2653  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0639  
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0173  
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY 0280  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 2619  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 3197  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0635  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 3667  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 001302

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NEA/ELA FOR IRWIN, ALSO FOR CA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/09/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [RU](#) [TU](#) [UK](#)  
SUBJECT: LEBANON: UK TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT, WILL  
CONSIDER REACHING OUT TO RUSSIANS AND TURKS

REF: STATE 49259

Classified By: PolMinCouns Maura Connelly, reasons 1.4 b, d

¶1. (C) HMG in general, and Foreign Secretary David Miliband in particular, are very concerned about the situation in Lebanon, Miliband's Chief of Staff Matthew Gould told us May ¶9. Miliband is planning to issue a statement the afternoon of May 9 reflecting the points in reftel; he will also call Lebanese FM Siniora, French FM Kouchner, and Secretary Rice, FCO Arab Israel Group Deputy Head Benjamin Saoul said. UK Special Representative for the Middle East Michael Williams called Amal Party leader Nabih Berri and March 14 leader Saad Hariri on May 8 to express UK support, FCO Middle East and North Africa Deputy Director Christian Turner told us. Gould and Turner agreed that the UK will explore the possibility of approaching Russia and Turkey to pressure Syria to reign in its allies. Gould noted that Miliband has not yet visited Lebanon as Foreign Minister, although Williams and other HMG officials visit regularly.

¶2. (SBU) The UK has changed its travel advisory to warn against any travel to Lebanon, Turner said, and is reviewing plans to evacuate its nationals if the situation deteriorates further. Saoul requested that the U.S. and UK governments coordinate closely in the run-up to such an evacuation. Visit London's Classified Website:  
[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit ed\\_Kingdom](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit_ed_Kingdom)  
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